

Message Text

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JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

USINFO FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION-- SECRETARY'S MID EAST TRIP

FROM MAESTRONE

1. ALL PAPERS ON MARCH 20 LEAD WITH SADAT INTERVIEW (REPORTED BY ALAHRAM MAR 12 AS GIVEN ON MAR 11) TO LEBANESE WEEKLY AL HAWADITH. AL AKHBAR AND AL GOMHOURIYA CARRIED FULL TESTS WHILE AL AHRAM PRESENTED COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY.

AL AKHBAR ALSO CARRIES THREE COLUMN PHOTO OF PERIODICAL'S EDITOR AL LOZY LISTENING TO SADAT. AL AHRAM HIGHLIGHTS THE FOLLOWING POINTS MADE BY SADAT: A. NO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AS RESULT OF SECRETARY'S CURRENT TALKS; B. SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD WAS TOLD THAT AS LONG AS EGYPT AND SYRIA ACT IN SAME OVERALL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK, EACH PARTY MAY HAVE FREEDOM TO FOLLOW ITS OWN CORSE; AND C. EGYPT HOLDS ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS

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OWN DECISIONS WHEATHER OR NOT SUPERPOSERS AGREE TO THESE

DECISIONS. AL AKHBAR EMPHASIZES SADAT'S STATEMENT IN INTERVIEW THAT A) ASAD KNOWS EGYPT WILL NOT SIGN SEPARATE AGREEMENT, B) EGYPT IS IN PROCESS OF REACHING SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND NOT FINAL SETTLEMENT, AND C) GUARANTEES OR PLEDGES TO ISRAEL WERE NOT DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY. AL GOMHOURIYA INDICATES THAT SADAT DOES NOT OBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ONE FRONT AT A TIME.

2. AL GOMHOURIYA ALSO REPORTS THAT WHEN SADAT WAS ASKED TO SPEAK ABOUT DIFFERENCES WITH USSR, HE SAID HE WOULD "NEED WHOLE ISSUE OF AL HAWADITH." SADAT ALSO SAID THE EGYPT HAD RECEIVED DELIVERY OF MIG 23'S BUT THAT THIS WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF OVERDUE CONTRACTS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN DELIVERED IN 73 AND 74. SADAT REMARKED, IN REFERENCE TO USSR-EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIPS THAT, "I FELT USSR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE GUARDIAN-WHIP WHICH WE HAVE IT AND OF TREATY WE SIGNED IN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL US." AKHBAR AND GOMHOURIYA (BUT NOT AHRAH) REPORTED SADAT STATEMENT THAT HE DID NOT WANT SOVIETS TO GET OUR OF AREA, OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE CANCELLED THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY AND PORT FACILITIES.

3. ALL PAPERS QUOTE SADAT'S COMMENTS IN INTERVIEW ON EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH PLO. SADAT SAID, "THERE ARE CERTAIN CIRCLES, THAT I WILL NOT NAME, WHO WANT TO CREATE DISPUTE BETWEEN EGYPT AND RESISTANCE BY HINTING TO PALESTINIANS THAT THERE IS DIFFERENCE IN TACTIC OR METHOD. A CERTAIN ARAB CAPITAL WHISPERED IN THE EARS OF PALESTINIANS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING COOKING BETWEEN EGYPT, JORDAN AND AMERICA AGAINST PALESTINIANS." SADAT DESCRIBED STATEMENT MADE BY ABU AYYAD RE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL THAT JORDAN NEGOTIATE ON PLAESTINIAN BEHALF AS "INCOMPLETE." SADAT SAID THAT, SINCE IT WAS CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE BY PALESTINIANS TO ACCEPT THIS, "THEN LET US TRY EITHER THROUGH EGYPT AS ABU AYYAD SUGGESTS OR THROUGH THE ARAB LEAGUE." SADAT SAID THAT IF JERUSALEM IS TO BE INTERNATIONALIZED, THEN THIS SHOULD APPLY TO THE TWO SECTORS. "THIS WOULD BE IN INTEREST OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE. NOR ARAB, WHETHER HE IS MOSLEM OR CHRISTIAN, WOULD ACCEPT ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OVER ARAB JERUSALEM."

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4. RE SECRETARY'S SHUTTLE, AL AHRAH'S HAMID FOUAD QUOTES STATEMENT BY "OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN" THAT SECRETARY'S ASWAN STOPOVER THURSDAY REPRESENTS "DECISIVE ROUND OF TALKS BY WHICH IT WILL BE KNOWN WHETHER ISRAEL IS SERIOUS ABOUT TE RE OPPORTUNITIES." IN PORTION DATELINED TEL AVIV, AL AHRAH QUOTES REUTERS AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY'S MISSION IS GENERALLY FELT TO BE GOING THROUGH IMPORTANT PHASE. REUTERS ALSO CITED SECRETARY'S REITERATION THAT

MISSION HAS NOT REACHED DEADEND. AP, AL AHAM ADDS, MAINTAINED THAT SECRETARY'S MISSION IS APPROACHING "MOMENT OF DECISION THOUGH IT IS STILL FACING DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF WIDE DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN BOTH SIDES. AP ALSO SAID THAT SECRETARY'S VIEW IS THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. BUT HE IS NOT SURE THAT GAP CAN BE BRIDGED. AL AKHBAR QUOTES OTHER SOURCES TO SAME EFFECT.

5. ALSO FROM ASWAN, AL AKHBAR'S MAHA ABDEL FATTAH REPORTS THAT WITH SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN ASWAN THURSDAY, EITHER PROGRESS WILL DEVELOP OR FURTHER COMPLICATIONS WILL OBSTRUCT SECRETARY'S MISSION. ABDEL FATTAH LEARNED THAT IDEAS THAT EGYPT PRESENTED SECRETARY "AS ALTERNATIVES TO ISRAELI IDEAS" ARE WITHIN SCOPE OF MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WHOSE APPLICATION WILL PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE. ABDEL FATTAH ALSO LEARNED THAT UP TO NOW SECRETARY "HAS NOT PRESENTED ANY U.S. PROPOSALS." QUOTING EGYPTIAN SOURCE, ABDEL FATTAH SAYS EGYPT'S IDEAS PROVIDE APPROPRIATE MILITARY CLIMATE UNDER WHICH "PROGRESS TOWARD FINAL SETTLEMENT CAN BE MADE." SAME SOURCE DESCRIBED EGYPTIAN IDEAS AS "POSITIVE PRACTICAL" AND FAR FROM BEING EITHER TOO RIGID OR TOO FLEXIBLE. ABDEL FATTAH, FURTHERMORE, QUOTES "OBSERVERS" AS SAYING THAT IF SECRETARY SUCCEEDS IN CONVINCING ISRAEL THAT ITS POLITICAL DEMANDS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED NOW, DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WILL NOT LAST FOR MORE THAN ONE WEEK. STROY ALSO REPORTS THAT, IN RIYADH, SECRETARY RIDICULED REPORTED INTENTIONS BY U.S. TO INVADE ARAB OILFIELDS.

6. AL GOMHOURIYA'S STORY BY HODA TEWFIK FOCUSES MORE THAN OTHER PAPERS ON STATEMENT BY "OFFICIAL SOURCES" THAT ARAB COUNTRIES' APPROVAL OF SC RESOLUTION NO.338 MEANT ACCEPTANCE OF END STATE OF BELLIGERENCY ON BASIS OF OVERALL UNCLASSIFIED

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SETTLEMENT AND JUST ME PEACE. SOURCE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE FOR CONCLUSION OF SUCH AGREEMENT. PRESS IN GENERAL ECHOED STATEMENT BY U.S. SPOKESMAN ABOARD SECRETARY'S PLANE THAT TALKS ARE SLOWER THAN EXPECTED. AL GOMHOURIYA ADDS SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT "BREAKING OFF OF TALKS IS NOT UNDER DISCUSSION."

7. IN COURSE OF COMPARING FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS' "EVENHANDED" POLICY TO SOLVE ME PROBLEMS ALL AT ONCE WITH SECRETARY'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, MOHAMED SALMAWI OF AL AHAM SUGGESTS KISSINGER BELIEVES THAT U.S. INTERESTS IN ME CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT CHANGING U.S. POLICY. AL AKHBAR SAYS THAT, BY DELAYING CURRENT TALKS, ISRAEL IS SEEKING TO ESCAPE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IMPOSED BY OCTOBER WAR. IN LONG WEEKEND ARTICLE, AL GOMHOURIYA

BOARD CHAIRMAN ABDEL MONIEM AL SAWI SAYS THAT GENEVA
REPRESENTS ULTIMATE GOALS OF EGYPT'S TALKS WITH SECRETARY,
WHILE HODA TEWFIK ELABORATES ON RECENT EGYPTIAN
STATEMENT AND ATTITUDES TOWARD AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.
MAIN EDITORIAL IN WEEKLY AL MUSSAWAR SYMPAHTIZES WITH
SECRETARY IN LIGHT OF CRITICISM FROM U.S. CONGRESS AND
PRESS AND MENTIONS PRESIDENT FORD'S
SUPPORT OF SECRETARY'S EFFORTS.
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